

nomination of Robert Anderson to serve as Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and I am here to tell you, Madam President, that I oppose this nomination.

Now, if confirmed, Mr. Anderson will serve as the Department's chief attorney and also as the principal legal adviser to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary Haaland. He would oversee more than 430 attorneys and a staff within 6 legal divisions. He would be responsible for ensuring that business conducted in the Interior Department follows the law and is done transparently. He would be granted tremendous powers to shape how the Department fulfills its mission by issuing final legal interpretations on all matters within the jurisdiction of the Department.

These decisions directly impact homes and businesses in Wyoming and throughout the Nation. These decisions can make or break our Nation's ability to protect our environment, to use and enjoy our natural resources, to create good-paying jobs, and to pay for services such as public education.

Over the course of his career, Mr. Anderson has both taught and practiced law, primarily focused on Tribal issues. Now, I am concerned that Mr. Anderson lacks sufficient legal experience beyond the Tribal law to effectively navigate the complex web of issues governing the multiple use of public lands and Federal lands.

I am very concerned about Mr. Anderson's actions, specifically actions he has taken as the Principal Deputy Solicitor since January 20 of this year. He has revoked many solicitors' opinions issued under the Trump administration. His work has paved the way for the Biden administration's punishing policies that are in direct conflict with the Department of the Interior's multiple-use mandate.

Mr. Anderson's responses to questioning by Senator CASSIDY during his nomination hearing were particularly concerning to me. Senator CASSIDY asked whether the nominee agreed that the requirement to "maintain"—maintain—oil and gas leasing programs meant to lease some more—not just maintain the leases that were already leased, but continue leasing. Mr. Anderson responded that he thought it was an open question.

Madam President, to suggest that the Secretary is no longer required to plan for and hold new offshore oil and gas leases simply and unfortunately but truly ignores the law of the land. Let me be clear. The Secretary of the Interior is required to comply with the law like everyone else. Mr. Anderson's willingness to put the Biden administration's war on American energy ahead of following established law, in my opinion, disqualifies him from serving as Solicitor.

I will vote against Mr. Anderson's nomination, and I will urge other Senators to do so.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF JONATHAN EUGENE MEYER

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise in support of Jonathan Meyer's nomination to be general counsel of the Department of Homeland Security, or DHS.

Mr. Meyer is an accomplished lawyer and dedicated public servant who is well qualified to serve as the Department's chief legal officer. His nomination maintains bipartisan support, including from former DHS general counsels who served under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Mr. Meyer's previous government service spans 17 years and includes senior roles in the Department of Justice, the U.S. Senate, and as the deputy general counsel for DHS during the Obama administration.

Since returning to private practice in 2016, Mr. Meyer's legal work has continued to focus on cyber security, technology, and homeland security. Throughout the confirmation process, Mr. Meyer has demonstrated that he understands the complex legal issues facing DHS and the importance of ensuring that the Department cooperates with Congressional oversight.

DHS has not had a Senate-confirmed general counsel for over 2 years. DHS needs qualified, Senate-confirmed leaders in place to effectively carry out its critical mission of safeguarding our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to confirm Mr. Meyer today.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 264, Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert T. Anderson, of Washington, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 391 Ex.]

YEAS—52

|              |              |            |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin      | Hickenlooper | Reed       |
| Bennet       | Hirono       | Rosen      |
| Blumenthal   | Kaine        | Sanders    |
| Booker       | Kelly        | Schatz     |
| Brown        | King         | Schumer    |
| Cantwell     | Klobuchar    | Shaheen    |
| Cardin       | Leahy        | Sinema     |
| Carper       | Lujan        | Smith      |
| Casey        | Manchin      | Stabenow   |
| Collins      | Markey       | Tester     |
| Coons        | Menendez     | Van Hollen |
| Cortez Masto | Merkley      | Warner     |
| Duckworth    | Murkowski    | Warnock    |
| Durbin       | Murphy       | Warren     |
| Feinstein    | Murray       | Whitehouse |
| Gillibrand   | Ossoff       | Wyden      |
| Hassan       | Padilla      |            |
| Heinrich     | Peters       |            |

NAYS—46

|           |            |            |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso  | Grassley   | Romney     |
| Blackburn | Hagerty    | Rounds     |
| Blunt     | Hawley     | Rubio      |
| Boozman   | Hooven     | Sasse      |
| Braun     | Hyde-Smith | Scott (FL) |
| Burr      | Inhofe     | Scott (SC) |
| Capito    | Johnson    | Shelby     |
| Cassidy   | Kennedy    | Sullivan   |
| Cornyn    | Lankford   | Thune      |
| Cotton    | Lee        | Tillis     |
| Cramer    | Lummis     | Toomey     |
| Cruz      | Marshall   | Tuberville |
| Daines    | McConnell  | Wicker     |
| Ernst     | Paul       | Young      |
| Fischer   | Portman    |            |
| Graham    | Risch      |            |

NOT VOTING—2

Crapo  
Moran

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 159, Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, Amy Klobuchar, Gary C. Peters, Mark R. Warner, Tammy Baldwin, Martin Heinrich, Mazie Hirono, Debbie Stabenow, Patrick J. Leahy, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jonathan Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?